

REMARKS**Summary of the Office Action**

Claims 22-26, 29, 36, 37, 39-41 and 43 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Claims 22-46 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukuyo et al. (published U.S. Patent Application No. 2004/0002199) (hereinafter “Fukuyo”) in view of Iri et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,211,526) (hereinafter “Iri”).

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

In response to the rejections, claims 26, 29, 41 and 43 are being canceled, and claims 22-25, 36, 37, 39, 40, 42 and 44 are being amended to differently define the embodiments of the present invention and/or improve the form of the claims. Claims 22-25, 27, 28, 30-40, 42 and 44-46 remain pending.

The 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph, Rejection

In response to the rejection of claims 22-26, 29, 36, 37, 39-41 and 43, claims 27, 30, 42 and 44 are being amended to include the limitations of claims 26, 29, 41 and 43, respectively, with the amendments suggested by the Examiner, and claims 26, 29, 41 and 43 are being canceled. Also, claims 22-25, 36, 37, 39 and 40 are being amended as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

The 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection

As indicated above, claims 22-46 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukuyo in view of Iri. Applicants respectfully submit that the March 30, 2004 filing date of the priority application, JP2004-100931, from which the present application claims benefit, predates the February 16, 2005 U.S. filing date of Iri. In accordance with M.P.E.P. § 201.15, Applicants are submitting herewith a certified English translation of the priority application. Applicants respectfully submit that the range of 5 μ m to 15 μ m set forth in claims 22, 24, 39 and 40 of the present application are supported by at least paragraphs 0090 and 0091 and Fig. 23 of the priority application. Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims of the present application are supported by the claims of the priority application as follows:

Present Application	JP2004-100931
Claim 22	Claim 1
Claim 23	Claim 3
Claim 24	Claim 2
Claim 25	Claim 3
Claim 27	Claim 4
Claim 28	Claim 6
Claim 30	Claim 5
Claim 31	Claim 6
Claim 32	Claim 7
Claim 33	Claim 8
Claim 34	Claim 9
Claim 35	Claim 10
Claim 36	Claim 11
Claim 37	Claim 12
Claim 38	Claim 13
Claim 39	Claim 14
Claim 40	Claim 15
Claim 42	Claim 16
Claim 44	Claim 17
Claim 45	Claim 18
Claim 46	Claim 19

Accordingly, for at least the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

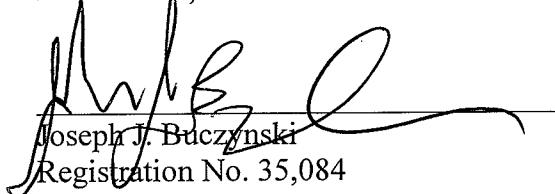
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request reconsideration and timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative to expedite prosecution. A favorable reply is awaited.

EXCEPT for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0573. This paragraph is intended to be a **CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully submitted,

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